

MICROCAPSULE CONTAINING PHASE-CHANGE MATERIAL AND NUCLEATING AGENT

Abstract of Disclosure

Disclosed are microcapsules for storing and releasing heat, and use of the microcapsules in making various articles. The microcapsules contain a phase-change material and a nucleating agent for the phase-change material. The phase-change material includes a paraffinic hydrocarbon with the melting point of about 10°C or higher. The nucleating agent includes an organic compound miscible with the paraffinic hydrocarbon and having the melting point substantially higher than that of the paraffinic hydrocarbon. The number of carbon atoms in the organic compound is greater than that of the paraffinic hydrocarbon. The microcapsules have a melting onset temperature, at which the core begins to melt, lower than a solidifying onset temperature, at which the core begins to solidify.

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